

Decision 03-07-012 July 10, 2003

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Emily Burns,

Complainant,

vs.

Southern California Edison Company,

Defendant.

(ECP)  
Case 03-05-007  
(Filed May 6, 2003)

Emily Burns, for herself, complainant.

P. Aldridge, for Southern California Edison Company,  
defendant.

**ORDER DENYING RELIEF**

Complainant alleges that Defendant is not billing her at the appropriate rate schedule and, therefore, she has been overcharged. She requests an adjustment to her bill. Defendant denies the allegations. Public hearing was held May 30, 2003.

Complainant presented her recent electric bills and asked that they be reviewed. She is a senior citizen living on a low fixed income.

Defendant reviewed her bills and testified that Complainant is being billed on the Domestic-CARE Rate Schedule, which provides a 20 percent discount. Complainant questioned the Distribution Charge and the Trust Transfer Charge on her May 2003 bill. Defendant explained that the Distribution Charge is one of the rate components which make up the price per kilowatt-hour Southern California Edison Company (SCE) charges for electricity. The Trust Transfer

Amount is the cost of low interest bonds. Defendant said that Complainant was exempt from the utility users tax. Several billing inquiries have been conducted at the service address and the meter was tested on July 3, 2002, and May 15, 2003. The meter was found to be accurate and within the limits established in SCE's Rule 17, Adjustment of Bills and Meter Tests. These results showed that Complainant has the potential connected load to have used the amount of electricity for which the account was billed. Complainant was advised that her refrigerator is damaged and the seals around the doors are bad. The condition of the refrigerator is probably the most significant reason for the amount of electricity used at the home. Defendant offered to assist Complainant in acquiring a new, more efficient refrigerator, which should cause Complainant's electric bills to be reduced.

We have independently reviewed Complainant's bills. They show Complainant is being billed at the lowest rates and is receiving all credits to which she is entitled.

### **Assignment of Proceeding**

Susan P. Kennedy is the Assigned Commissioner and Robert Barnett is the assigned Administrative Law Judge in this proceeding.

### **IT IS ORDERED** that:

1. The relief requested in the complaint is denied.
2. Case 03-05-007 is closed.

This order is effective today.

Dated July 10, 2003, at San Francisco, California.

MICHAEL R. PEEVEY  
President  
CARL W. WOOD  
LORETTA M. LYNCH  
GEOFFREY F. BROWN  
SUSAN P. KENNEDY  
Commissioners